

TAXPAYERS, IN FIGHT TO BREAK UP JOHNSON-PROUTY HOUSE COMBINE, DEMAND A FAIR DEAL FOR DISTRICT

Amendment to George Bill, Which Would Upset Main Feature of Organic Act of 1878 by Saddling Upon Property Owners Whole Expenses of District Government, Declared to Be MOST UNPOPULAR MEASURE EVER PROPOSED IN CONGRESS.

DR. HARVEY W. WILEY AND EX-SENATOR BLACKBURN, IN CAUSTIC SPEECHES, DENOUNCE COMMITTEE'S WORK

Determined to break up the Johnson-Prouty combination in the House of Representatives, which The Washington Herald has persistently opposed in its news and editorial columns, six hundred of the most prominent taxpayers, men and women, overflowed the big red room at the New Willard yesterday afternoon and launched a people's fight for a fair deal.

The amendment to the George bill, now in the House District Committee, which would upset the main feature of the organic act of 1878 by saddling upon the taxpayers the whole, instead of one-half, the expenses of the District government, was clearly demonstrated by attendance alone, to be one of the most unpopular District measures ever proposed in Congress.

An organization soon was accomplished without a single discordant note. Dr. Harvey W. Wiley was elected chairman, and, on motion of former Commissioner Myron M. Parker, which was unanimously carried, he was "authorized to appoint a committee of one hundred representative citizens to present to Congress a protest against hasty legislation involving important changes of any character in the administration of the affairs of the National Capital."

An amendment that Dr. Wiley be chairman of the committee also was unanimously adopted. The chairman called for suggestions to help him in his selections and the personnel of the committee probably will be announced in a few days. The introduction of former Senator Joseph Clay Stiles Blackburn, of Kentucky, author of the organic act of 1878, the main feature of which the Johnson-Prouty forces would now repeal, was a signal for a splendid ovation. Mr. Blackburn's attachment to the National Capital is attested by real deeds in Congress and out of it, and a grateful people poured into the hotel yesterday to extend a hearty welcome to a devoted friend.

After his speech, which was frequently interrupted by loud applause, the people, through former Commissioner Parker, presented Mrs. Blackburn, his wife, a large bouquet of beautiful cut roses, to which the former Senator made a brief response.

"Pin Your Faith in People," He Says.

Mr. Blackburn spoke feelingly of the attempt to saddle the whole cost of the District government on the taxpayers of the District, told the people to pin their faith to Congress and the American people.

In accepting the chairmanship Dr. Wiley, replying to a little pleasantry by Mr. Parker, admitted that he had done a "heap for his country in the way of increasing the population," and said he was very proud. Continuing he said:

"I thank you most cordially for the honor of having been asked to preside at this meeting. I attribute my selection to the well-known prejudice which exists in some quarters against rich men. That gives us poor folks a chance, and I am convinced that I have been asked to preside because I probably am the smallest taxpayer in the house. I think we all believe in the single tax, especially the kind they have discovered in Cleveland, where one man has been asked to pay \$12,000,000. One angel like that would put the District of Columbia in a comfortable position.

"I do not wish to be misunderstood, however. I did not come here to protest against paying my taxes. I consider that more a privilege than a duty. My purpose is rather to direct attention to the fact that the fundamental doctrines on which this government is based is violated in the proposed measures of saddling all the expenses of the Capital City upon the few of its citizens who happen to reside here.

"If the Capital of the United States were also the metropolis of the country, as is the case with Madrid, Rome, Paris, Constantinople, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Berlin, and London, it would not be a serious matter. These cities are the most populous and the richest of the countries in which they exist, and, therefore, might easily bear all the taxation necessary to keep them in that condition befitting the Capital City.

"I have no doubt that I express the unanimous feeling of every one here, that he is willing to do his proper part in the support of the District government. I say this with the full knowledge that, even as at present constituted, the District government violates every principle which led to the foundation of our country.

Exhibit of Taxation Without Representation.

"We have, perhaps, the most brilliant exhibit of the old doctrine of 'taxation without representation' which has ever been shown to the world. I would be glad if, in my humble way, I could make everything in this city comfortable and convenient for the members of Congress.

"I have found them to be mostly good fellows, and only a few of them imbued with the idea that the way to seek popularity at home is to swat the District. In the eyes of such men as these the District is the pestiferous fly, to be exterminated as soon as possible in the interests of the national health. I do not believe that this attitude represents the temper of this country. I do not think the patriotism of our citizens is confined to Podunk.

"Every true American would be glad to see the National Capital taking first rank in beauty, in convenience, in public utilities, in civic spirit, and in sanitation. To this end the patriotic people of this country are willing to spend a small portion of the income of this government in keeping Washington abreast of the most progressive cities of the world. In this general work for the glory and honor of the country we are perfectly willing, I believe, to continue to pay one-half of the expense of the Capital City government, even if we are denied any participation in the laying of the taxes and in the distribution thereof.

"We now are in a most helpless state. Fortunately, the triumvir who have been chosen to rule over us in the past and at the present are men of high character and patriotic impulses. In this fact, up to this time, has been the salvation of our city. But imagine what might happen if our triumvir should represent that spirit of hatred for the District and its people which we have seen manifested occasionally in high places.

"Assuredly, if we are to be taxed in everything and all directions, we should lay the taxes ourselves and not be the helpless victims of foreign supervision. While the present condition of affairs is not calculated to develop the civic spirit among our people, it may, if wisely continued, develop civic pride. There are so few of us here that the crushing out of the spirit of American citizenship

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JOHNSON-PROUTY MEASURE WINS BY ANOSE

Amendment to Tax Bill Is Passed by Committee in Vote of 8-10.

GEORGE WILL DEMAND INQUIRY IN DISTRICT

The Johnson-Prouty amendment to the George tax bill, raising the tax burden of the District about \$5,000,000 annually, was finally placed in the measure by the District Committee yesterday.

The vote was 8 to 10, three members of the committee being absent. The closeness of the vote and the comparatively large attendance presages a stiff fight against the amendment on the floor of the House, and a fair fighting chance to defeat at least a part of the amendment.

Following the vote on the Prouty amendment, which came at the end of a limited discussion, the committee adjourned until Monday, when it hopes to conclude the reading of the bill. It will be impossible to get the measure up in the House for debate before March 23, the last District day of this month. In view of the strength and prestige of the opposition, the lack of progress in the George ranks, and the efforts made by Chairman Johnson to cut off debate and cram the amendment down the throats of his committee, the close vote may be taken as a decided victory for George and his friends. An effort to call the previous question on the amendment was defeated by a tie vote—9 to 9. A motion to adjourn immediately afterwards, however, also was defeated, the vote being 8 to 4, with six members not voting.

Amendment Is Changed.
The vote by which the committee went on record against the budget plan at the last meeting was 7 to 4.

Mr. Prouty changed his amendment before the vote by striking out the tax on jewelry and other personal adornments, and on stock of corporations which already pay a tax on gross income. The amendment as finally adopted reads:

"That, for the purpose of establishing a uniform rate of taxation in the District of Columbia, there is hereby levied upon the aforesaid real estate an annual tax equal in rate to that rate which is now or which hereafter may be imposed by Congress upon taxable personal property in the District of Columbia, and, in the same rate of taxation, is hereby levied upon all intangible property in the District of Columbia which would be taxable under existing law were it tangible personal property, including moneys, credits, shares of stocks, bonds, annuities, and all other evidences of indebtedness which bear interest.

"Nothing herein shall be so construed as to impose a tax upon any property of the United States or of the District of Columbia. Neither shall a tax be imposed upon shares of the capital stock in any corporation which corporation pays a tax on its gross income, or upon any property represented by its capital stock, or pays tax on gross income; and all persons,

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QUAKE SHAKES GEORGIA CITIES

Atlanta, Athens and Other Towns Feel Earth Tremors.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Atlanta, Ga., March 5.—A perceptible earthquake shock was felt here this afternoon, a few minutes after 3 o'clock. The tremors continued for seven minutes. There was no damage in the city.

The shock also was felt at Athens and other Georgia towns. Dishes and pictures were shaken down and many persons were frightened badly.

Jackson, Ga., March 5.—Tremors of an earthquake lasting twenty seconds were felt here this afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock. The shock was the most violent since 1886. Buildings rocked and the shock caused considerable excitement.

GET VOTE; DON'T USE IT.

Not a Single Woman in Illinois Towns Casts Ballot.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Elgin, Ill., March 5.—A count today of the votes cast yesterday in Plato Center, near here, showed that not a single woman took advantage of her right to vote. Although there was a hot fight over the selection of the highway board members, the women refused to take any part in the election.

POST BEARING TRIP WELL.

Special Train on Race for Life Is Nearing Destination.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Kansas City, Kans., March 5.—The special train, which is hurrying C. W. Post, of Battle Creek, Michigan, who is seriously ill, from Los Angeles, to Rochester, Minn., for an operation, arrived in Kansas City at 10 o'clock tonight. Mr. Post was reported as resting comfortably.

INDEMNITY BILL VICTORIOUS.

South African Assembly Adopts Measure After Long Debate.

Capetown, South Africa, March 5.—The bill to indemnify the government for the cost of its military movements and expenses incurred in deporting leaders of the recent strike was passed in the Assembly this afternoon after a sitting of twenty-six hours, the longest in the history of South Africa.

MRS. RANTOUL LOSES SUIT.

Judge Throws Her Divorce Action Out of Court.

East Cambridge, Mass., March 5.—Mrs. Lois Burnett Rantoul today lost her divorce suit against Edward L. Rantoul. Judge Hardy, of the District Court, dismissed Mrs. Rantoul's divorce libel. The court's decision was a complete victory for the husband.

Judge Hardy's action came as a surprise, as it was not believed he would hand down his decision within two weeks. It is understood a new fight will be started over the custody of the Rantoul children.

The trial was the most sensational in divorce annals of the last century and lasted nearly two weeks. Prominent society people took a stand in unfolding how the domestic happiness of the Rantouls was shattered by the wife's love for Chester Chaslin. ("Chipsy") Russell, whom Mrs. Rantoul called her "God-sent lover," and for whom she openly confessed affection.

ZIONISTS RELEASE WHITEMAN.

One-time Millionaire and Legislator Promises to Repay Woman.

Chicago, March 5.—On the promise that he would repay \$500 of the money by tomorrow night and the rest in two weeks, Alonzo J. Whiteman, former Minnesota legislator, who was arrested in Hot Springs, Ark., on a charge of keeping a check for \$2,518, which Mrs. Sara Conger had entrusted to him, was released last night at Zion City.

Whiteman made the promise to Mrs. Conger and officials of the Zion City Church, in which he had been a worker under Alexander Dowse and Wilbur Glen Vollva. Mrs. Conger is a member of the church.

CITY OFFICIALS INDICTED.

Ex-Treasurer and Clerk of East St. Louis Charged with Embezzlement.

Special to The Washington Herald.
East St. Louis, Ill., March 5.—E. Fred Gould, former city treasurer, and John D. Young, former clerk in the office of the building commission, were indicted on charges of embezzling city funds today.

Gould was charged with having withheld \$11,200, part of the city taxes which he collected in 1913, and with violating the State law authorizing a city treasurer to keep 2 per cent of the collections until the total retained is \$1,200.

Young was charged with having embezzled \$400, paid as licenses and fees.

REFUTE PEONAGE CHARGES.

Six Miners Appear for Operators Before Congressional Probers.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Houghton, Mich., March 5.—Refuting the charges of peonage made by the Western Federation of Miners in the Congressional strike investigation, the copper mine operators today put on the stand six miners who have been indicted for the strike.

All testified that they were at liberty at all times to leave the trains when coming to the district and that at no time were they ever threatened by guards from leaving their bunk houses.

SANITY TEST FOR CHARLTON.

Two Italian Aliens to Examine American.

Naples, Italy, March 5.—Porter Charlton, the young American who is awaiting trial for the murder of his wife at Lake Como, will be examined as to his sanity by two of Italy's leading experts.

Deputy Leonardo Bianchi, former minister of instruction, and Prof. Enrico Morelli, of the University of Genoa, will make the examination.

USE DYNAMITE TO CHECK FIRE.

Firemen Blast Tipple to Save Miners' Camp.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Monongahela, Pa., March 5.—Unable to stem the flames which had destroyed the river tipple of the Black Diamond Coal Company, two miles from here, early today, firemen resorted to dynamite, which had caught fire and checked the blaze.

Loss, \$20,000.

JAIL CASHIER OF DEFUNCT BANK.

Charged with Accepting Deposits, Knowing Institution's Condition.

Memphis, Tenn., March 5.—Claud Anderson, former cashier of the defunct Mercantile Bank, of which C. Hunter Baine was president, was arrested this morning on a charge of having received deposits in the bank knowing that it was not solvent. His bond was fixed at \$10,000.

SEVENTEEN DIE IN AVALANCHE.

Two Austrian Officers and Fifteen Soldiers Killed.

Vienna, March 5.—Two Austrian officers and fifteen soldiers were killed today when they were buried in an avalanche while conducting maneuvers at Ortales.

CONGRESS IN BRIEF.

SENATE.

Senator Chilton introduced bill empowering President to repeal free Panama Canal tolls clause.

Senator William Alden Smith attacked President Wilson for advocating a violent plank of Democratic platform declaring in favor of free tolls for American shipping.

Debate on Chamberlain resolution for constitutional amendment for woman suffrage was continued.

Senator Sherman spoke in favor of Presidential primaries conducted under State laws.

Randall bill appropriating \$50,000 for investigation of malaria and typhoid fever was subject of hearing before Committee on Public Health and Quarantine.

The Senate recessed for seventeen minutes to attend the Sims bill to repeal free toll section of Panama Canal act. Adjourned until 11 o'clock today.

HOUSE.

Interrupted only by President's message on Panama Canal tolls question, House again debated agricultural appropriation bill.

Representative Miller, of Minnesota, delivered speech asserting that Filipinos are incapable of self-government. Judiciary Committee continued hearings on trust legislation.

Rules Committee continued hearings on Mahanah resolution to investigate Chicago, Minneapolis and Duluth wheat pits. Secretary of State Bryan was heard on Mexican situation at star chamber session of Foreign Affairs Committee.

PARTY SPLITS ON FREE TOLLS

Mr. Wilson's Effort to Unite Democrats on Repeal Question Fails.

O'GORMAN RAPS POLICY

Poll of House and Senate; However, Assures President of Victory with Republican Aid.

President Wilson's earnest appeal to Congress yesterday for the repeal of the free tolls clause of the Panama Canal act has failed to unite the Democratic party in Congress on this issue. Such important leaders as Representative Underwood, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee; Representative Doremus, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Committee; Representative Fitzgerald, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Senator O'Gorman, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, are still standing out against the repeal and will oppose it.

The first evidence of the sharp break that the President is likely to have with some members of the party on this question was indicated last night in a formal statement by Senator O'Gorman, in which he charged in effect that the action proposed by the President is an effort to "purchase" Great Britain's friendship.

President Wilson's address on the free tolls question was received more unfavorably than any other utterance he has made to the National Legislature. Even members of Congress who are supporting the President on this issue were disappointed. They had hoped for some definite statement of the conditions necessitating the repeal of the free tolls provision, but they complain that they have received nothing but a warning of dangers that would confront the United States unless favorable action were taken.

"If we must purchase foreign friendship," said Senator O'Gorman, "the price exacted must not involve us in national dishonor and repudiation of party pledges upon which the administration secured office."

Assured of Victory, Anyway.
But while the contest is to be spirited, the President was yesterday assured that the repeal would be sustained by both houses of Congress.

The German incidentally are ridiculing the policy of England in leaving to the United States the task of straightening out the international tangle caused by the death of William S. Benson. Since the announcement that the three from the embassy here were leaving Washington, Count Bernstorff has been in communication with the German Legation at Mexico City. The reports he has thus far received do not indicate that there is immediate danger.

PLANS NEW WATER SUPPLY.
Rockville Also to Install a Sewerage System.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Rockville, Md., March 5.—Four hundred men and women attended a meeting in the courthouse here to consider the report of a committee appointed at a public meeting last week to investigate the proposition for a sewerage system and a new water supply for Rockville. As a result of the meeting it is believed a sewerage system and pure water supply will be accomplished in the near future.

The report of the committee recommended that the mayor and council instruct the city engineer to sink new wells at a cost not to exceed \$50,000, and to employ an engineer at once to draw up plans.

The mayor and council are authorized to expend \$100,000 to raise funds to redeem the bonds issued for the project.

FIREMEN'S SALARIES CUT.
Boston Mayor, Retrenching, Plans Police Reduction Also.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Boston, Mass., March 5.—In furtherance of plans to reduce city expenses, Mayor Curley has restored the salaries of many members of the fire department to their basis before they were increased by former Mayor Fitzgerald. All except the "privates" in the department were affected, and the total reduction amounts to \$50,000.

The mayor will try to obtain a similar cut in salaries in the police department.

PUBLISHER KILLED IN OLD FEUD

Former Employee Shoots Him on Street and Surrenders to Marshal.

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Bloomington, Ill., March 5.—Ill-feeling of several years duration was said today to have been the cause of the killing of John M. Zoehlfuerer, a newspaper publisher, by a man named Dunkin, on a street in Leroy, near here, yesterday afternoon. After he had shot Zoehlfuerer, Dunkin gave himself up to the town marshal and was brought here to the county jail.

Several years ago Dunkin was employed in Zoehlfuerer's office. The ill-feeling between the men is said to have dated from that time.

MEASLES STRIKES TRACK TEAM.

Grover Cleveland's Son Among Phillips-Exeter Boys in Infirmary.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Exeter, N. H., March 5.—Eight students in Phillips-Exeter Academy, several of whom participated in the school games in Boston last Saturday, were confined in the infirmary today with measles.

Among those stricken are Richard Cleveland, son of the late President; Capt. Lawrence Williams, Jr., and Clarence Austin, all of the track team, and Choir Leader Black.

CONVICTED AS WIFE'S SLAYER.

W. C. Ellis Held Guilty by Jury, Which Fixes 15-Year Sentence.

Chicago, March 5.—The jury in the case of William Cheney Ellis, of Cincinnati, on trial for the murder of his wife, returned a verdict late this afternoon of guilty of murder in the first degree.

They fixed punishment at fifteen years in the penitentiary.

Richard H. Bowman Dead.

Special to The Washington Herald.
Rockville, Md., March 5.—Richard H. Bowman, seventy-five years old, died here this morning at the home of his son, J. Darby Bowman. He had been in poor health several years and had been confined to his bed about three weeks. His death was due to a complication of diseases. Surviving him are two sons—J. Darby Bowman, deputy clerk of the District Court for this county, and Richard H. Bowman, Jr., of Washington.

DIRT OVER SEA GRAVE OF 11.

Salute to Dead Booms Across Spot Where British Submarine Sank.

Plymouth, England, March 5.—With impressive ceremony, a funeral service was read today for the eleven men who perished with the lost submarine A-7, hope of recovering which has been abandoned by the admiralty.

While the burial rites of the Church of England were read on board the cruiser Forth, standing by over the spot in Plymouth Sound where the A-7 is supposed to be buried in the sand, a duplicate service was read in the Royal Navy Barracks at Keyham.

One thousand officers of the navy and army attended the land services. At the close the Forth fired three broadsides in salute of the dead and the buglers sounded "last post."

GERMANY TAKES HAND IN MEXICAN PROBLEM

Kaiser Will Not Follow English Policy if Subjects Come to Harm.

AGENTS START TO MAKE PROBE

The true significance of the trip to Mexico City by three members of the German Embassy here was learned yesterday.

Capt. Franz Papen, military attaché; Capt. Boy-Ed, naval attaché, and Baron von Lersner, second secretary, have been ordered to learn whether any German subjects are in danger in the territory controlled by Huerta. Ambassador Bernstorff, of the German Embassy, has informed Secretary of State Bryan that his government will not follow English precedent, but will take the initiative in obtaining punishment for the injury or death of Germans.

Capt. Papen informed President Wilson when he came here a month ago that he probably would go on to Mexico and investigate conditions there. The President, it is understood, did not offer objections.

Instead of reporting to Washington, as at first was stated, they will send their dispatches direct to the government at Berlin, where they have been specifically instructed to see that the "neutral zone" around the German Legation in Mexico City is not invaded by belligerent Mexicans and to report the first offense to their home office.

Dissatisfaction with the policy of the United States is responsible for Germany's action. Her foreign office has already lodged a protest with the State Department against a formal announcement that Germany will hold "directly responsible" any Mexican officials in whose territory a German subject has been put to death.

The German incidentally are ridiculing the policy of England in leaving to the United States the task of straightening out the international tangle caused by the death of William S. Benson. Since the announcement that the three from the embassy here were leaving Washington, Count Bernstorff has been in communication with the German Legation at Mexico City. The reports he has thus far received do not indicate that there is immediate danger.

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DIAZ PUTS PLAN TO OUST HUERTA UP TO UNCLE SAM

Congress Will Hear Him Propose Himself as Mexican President.

SUPPORT IS IMPROBABLE